

ST. BERNADETTE AND ST. JOHN XXIII CONFIRMATION/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DISCERNMENT

Parents,

As your child has grown in faith, through your example, he/she has responded with the desire to have a fuller relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. In taking these next steps towards the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, he/she will be completing the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. These are not to be entered into lightly or without the intent of continuing on this journey of faith.

In order for you to discern your child's readiness for the Sacraments the following may help:

As you know, as Catholics, we get to attend Mass every Sunday. In our attendance at Mass does my child?

- Express his/her love for God?
- Express a desire to go to Mass and participate in Mass? (ie: attentive during the Eucharistic Prayer, participate by singing, standing, kneeling at the appropriate times)
- Express their desire to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus or do they call the Eucharist, it, bread, or wafer, etc.?
- Participate in the Sacrament of Confession (Reconciliation) on a regular basis? (at least monthly)
- Show an awareness of the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist?
- Can he/she distinguish between the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity?
- Speak freely about God?
- Try to walk as a child of the Light?
- Pray? How do they pray? Do they take the initiative to pray or do they only pray when instructed?

- Have you witnessed your child showing compassion and respect for others?

These should help you to further prepare your child for this special time in their lives when they will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Then with the grace of the Sacraments continue their faith filled walk following the Good Shepherd.

In Christ,

Mindy Longwell
Dir. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

